



# THE MAIL POUCH



The Pony Express Branch #69  
December — 2021 Edition



John Popadak, Editor



## Sickert Says

Thank you to those of you who attended our luncheon on November 11, 2021. The Dante Event Center prepared a delicious meal for us, as they routinely have since the Branch returned in August. I think most members who have attended the luncheons have been pleased with the results. We had 76 members attend the November luncheon, our best attendance so far.

The November luncheon was my last as Big Sir. It has been a challenging year and I am grateful for your trust in me to reopen the branch after the COVID-19 shutdown of activities that took place over the last couple of years.

Thank you to Mark Steffens, Hal Copperberg, and Steve Brandenburger who worked with me and the Branch Executive Committee to select a luncheon vendor. With the return of luncheons, Tom Page restarting bowling, and with Lennie Silva and Greg Schweitzer maintaining our golf, the branch has resumed most of its activities. Thank you gentlemen.

I want to thank Pat Quinn, Secretary, who guided me throughout the year. Your knowledge and experience made the difference. Thank you to Ron Hutcheson, John Popadak, Alan Weinel, and Directors PBS Jimmy Buckley, Bud Rogers, Jim Oblizalo, and Steve Brandenburger.

It takes a lot of people to show up and regularly perform the activities necessary for the branch to function effectively throughout the year. These include Jerry Schroeder, Ross Martin, Don Neufeld, Steve Goodman, Jim Huffman, Bernie Moreno, Lieutenant Coopwood, Don Agostinelli, Mark Kraut, and Allen Riker. Your efforts are appreciated.

Thank you, callers: Dan Nelson, Frank Calgano, Joe Riley, Connor Chin, Jim Huffman, Tom Knoble, Rick Hom, Bob Clanton, Wing Tse, Steve Haakenson, and Steve Brandenburger. Your work is critical to the success of our luncheons. I enjoyed working with you.

Enjoy the holidays.

*Paul Sickert, Big Sir*



## Mark's Talk

On November 11<sup>th</sup> our speaker was author Larry Brooks. He spoke about his book, *Tan Tru*, published in 2013. It chronicles events that unfolded during 1968 and early 1969, when the author served as a young infantry soldier in the United States Army with Charlie Company, 2nd/60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. *Tan Tru* has consistently ranked among Amazon's Top 100 Best Selling Vietnam War Memoirs and Biographies since the year 2017.

## The annual mandatory dues for 2022 will be \$25

After 8 years of discussing whether to have annual dues instead of volunteer contributions, the BEC, at November's meeting, voted to have annual dues. Many members have been making voluntary contributions over the years, but there are some who do not pay at all. It is unfair for those who do pay to carry the total cost of expenses for the club.

They dues are due in January and payable at our first luncheon on January 13<sup>th</sup>. They may also be mailed to: [Hal Copperberg, 8015 Garry Oak Dr., Citrus Heights, Ca., 95610. Please make checks payable to: SIRSB.R. 69.](mailto:Hal.Copperberg@8015GarryOakDr.com) You will have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to pay these dues. Beginning April 1st it could infringe on you participating in club activities. The switch to dues as opposed to contributions, (**what other clubs do not have dues?**) brings us in line with other SIR branches.

As you know, the pandemic caused us to curtail most of our activities, including Day in the Park and our annual Ladies Day luncheon in December. Both allow our families to join with us in these activities. We will be bringing these and other activities back next year. We also must increase our recruitment efforts to attract new members. We help keep the cost of these activities down by paying for venue rental space, the cost of entertainment, wine at our luncheons and other expenses.

Our budget for 2022 will be more than \$3000. With your continued support, we will be able to continue to

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## December Birthdays

Mark Kraut	12/01	
George Langford	12/06	
<b>Ed Linn</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>85 Years</b>
Greg Schweitzer	12/14	
Ron Hutcheson	12/16	
<b>Horace Holmes</b>	<b>12/25</b>	<b>87 Years</b>
Gary Lukins	12/25	
<b>Rich Taylor</b>	<b>12/25</b>	<b>84 Years</b>
Rex Bowling	12/29	



## December Anniversaries

Bill and Betty Mullen	12/07	
Rod and Cheryl Lukins	12/08	
<b>Floyd and Helen Scott</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>60 Years</b>
<b>Conrad and JoAnn Cookman</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>55 Years</b>
Paul and Carolyn Ogden	12/21	
Larry and Nancy McLeod	12/23	
<b>Lloyd and Joyce Plank</b>	<b>12/28</b>	<b>58 Years</b>



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provide the level of support we have enjoyed in the past.

**Finally**, check out SIR Apparel and Signage ([Apparel and Signage – SIR \(sirinc.org\)](http://Apparel and Signage - SIR (sirinc.org))). You will be amazed at what is available to our members (personalized Branch 69 shirts and jackets with your name FREE). The Pro-Shop Website can take individual orders. If your order is over \$50 it has free shipping. I will have my new shirt and hat by this meeting.

*Mark Steffens, Little Sir*



## SOME CHRISTMAS TRIVIA



### HANGING STOCKINGS STARTED BY ACCIDENT

Legend has it, we hang stockings by the chimney with care thanks to a poor man who didn't have enough money for his three daughters' dowries. Generous old St. Nick dropped a bag of gold down their chimney one night after the girls had hung their freshly-washed stockings there to dry. That's where the gold ended up, and the tradition stuck.

### THE EIGHT TINY REINDEER HAVE HAD LOTS OF NAMES

Rudolph was almost named Rollo or Reginald, which doesn't quite have the same ring to it. But his crew also had lots of other names. They've also been called Flossie, Glossie, Racer, Pacer, Scratcher, Feckless, Ready, Steady and Fireball.

### "JINGLE BELLS" WAS ORIGINALLY A THANKSGIVING SONG

Turns out, we first started dashing through the snow for an entirely different holiday. James Lord Pierpont wrote the song called "One Horse Open Sleigh" for his church's Thanksgiving concert in the mid-19th Century. Then in 1857, the song was re-released under the title we all know and love. Today, it's still among the most popular Christmas songs.

### TINSEL HAS A STORIED HISTORY

Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was originally spun from real silver, making it far from the chintzy decoration it is now. The U.S. government also once banned tinsel because it used to contain poisonous lead. But never fear; now it's just plastic. It should still be kept away from young kids and pets though, since they could still choke on it.





## Your 2021 Golf Directors

**Lennie Silva—Regular Course**



**Greg Schweitzer—Progressive Golf Club**



### **DECEMBER GOLF**

December 16 - Bartley Cavanaugh - XMas Shoot - \$38

### **DECEMBER GOLF**

December 13 - Bing Maloney - 4 Man Scramble - Red Tees

## RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY



We're settling in to our regular routine at the Dante Club. It has been great to be back seeing our friends at the luncheons again. I hope more members who are on the fence about attending the luncheons again because of Covid fears will join us soon and enjoy the speakers, good food and seeing their SIR friends again.

Not much is happening on the recruiting front right now. We do have new signage for use with golf and bowling events announcing that SIR Branch 69 is playing today. Hopefully, these signs will entice potential new members to get in touch with us.

When you sign up for golf tournaments, think about friends who might benefit from our SIR activities. Perhaps you could have a friend play as a guest in a tournament, one of our best recruiting methods. Also, think about bowlers who might want to join our branch and bowl in our league. It's always good to keep our recruiting in mind!

*Tom Page Recruiting & Publicity Director*



## BOWLING NEWS



The SIR Branch 69 & Friends bowling league is nearing the end of the first half of the 2021-2022 season. The competition is still too close to call - 6 teams are within 5 points of the lead! With five weeks left in the first half, it's anyone's guess for the winner.

Several bowlers have posted really great scores so far. Jim Smalling has the top scratch game at 266 and the top scratch series at 710. Pat Barrett and Ted Patterson are second and third in those categories with 257/701 and 246/649 respectively. Ron Peters has the top handicap game with 294, followed by Jim Happs at 289 and Bud Rogers at 288. Jim Happs has the top handicap series at 780, just ahead of Pat Quinn with 758.

Our bowlers have been active in other bowling venues, too. Recently, several of our guys competed in a State SIR tournament in Modesto. The duo of Alex Canada and Mark Steffens took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Division 2 doubles; Connor Chin and Bernie Moreno finished 5<sup>th</sup> in that category. All four of those bowlers grabbed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Division 2 team event. Rounding out their efforts, Mark Steffens finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the Division 2 All Events and Bernie Moreno took 7<sup>th</sup>. All four of our guys took home a nice wad of prize money!

More recently, some of our bowlers competed in the Cal State Seniors tournament at AMF Bowl Rocklin and Fireside Lanes in Orangevale. Results for that event are not in yet.

I will look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly luncheons and at the bowling alley.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

**Tom Page, League Secretary 916-488-6465**



**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

11/23/2021

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
Contributions	\$2,382	\$2,100	\$ 282
Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,382</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>	<b>\$ 282</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Printing & Postage	\$ 0	\$ 500	\$ 500
Officers' Expenses	\$ 52	\$ 50	\$ -2
Guest Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 200
State Assessment	\$ 501	\$ 800	\$ 299
Other, Golf Expo	\$ 71	\$ 200	\$ 129
Other, Misc.	\$ 984	\$1,475	\$ 491
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,608</b>	<b>\$3,225</b>	<b>\$ 1,617</b>
CASH BALANCE AT END OF 2020			\$ 4,486
CURRENT CASH BALANCE			\$ 5,260
PROJECTED CASH BALANCE 12/31/2021			\$ 3,361
PROJECTED 2021 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP			150
PROJECTED CASH BALANCE PER MEMBER			\$ 22

**Hal Copperberg, Treasurer****ATTENDANCE REPORT**

We had 76 members (59%) at our November meeting. Remember, no meeting in December.

**SUNSHINE**

Jim Oblizalo is home from the hospital recovering from COVID-19. He remains on oxygen as he has been for the past month. He can get up but cannot really move about without becoming incapacitated.

We currently do not have a Sunshine Chairman. In the interim, if you have any information regarding a member who is ill or incapacitated, please email Paul Sickert at: [paulsicket3787@gmail.com](mailto:paulsicket3787@gmail.com).

**2021 ROSTER REPAIRS**

Please send roster corrections to Alan's personal Email account [Alan\\_Weinel@ATT.Net](mailto:Alan_Weinel@ATT.Net) with subject "Roster Correction".

**Alan Weinel, Roster Chairman**

<b>2021 Officers</b>		
BIG SIR	PAUL SICKERT	(916) 396-6230
LITTLE SIR	MARK STEFFENS	(916) 214-8650
SECRETARY	PAT QUINN	(916) 201-5262
ASST SECRETARY	RON HUTCHESON	(916) 897-2807
TREASURER	HAL COPPERBERG	(916) 722-2606
ASST TREASURER	ALAN WEINEL	(209) 843-1804

<b>Directors</b>		
PBS JIM BUCKLEY	(916) 284-2364	STEVE BRANDENBURGER (916) 765-0585
BUD ROGERS	(916) 991-2611	JIM OBLIZALO (916) 747-8172

<b>State Officers</b>	
STATE PRESIDENT:	STUART (STU) WILLIAMS
REGION 1 DIRECTOR:	DAVE GONZALES
AREA 4 GOVERNOR:	HUGH THOMPSON

<b>Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations &amp; Publicity (RAMP)</b>		
RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO	PBS TOM PAGE	(916) 488-6465
ACTIVITIES	PBS JERRY SCHROEDER	(916) 801-2530
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695

<b>Committee Chairs</b>		
Programs	Mark Steffens	(916) 396-6230
Newsletter	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Chaplain	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Roster	Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Golf (BR69/RC)	PBS Lennie Silva	(916) 487-9812
Golf (PGC)	Greg Schweitzer	(916) 687-8629
Bowling	PBS Tom Page	(916) 488-6465
Audit	Don Neufeld	(916) 863-5228
Nominating	Ron Hutcheson	(916) 897-2807
Nominating	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Attendance	John Hanson	(916) 612-3115
Orientation	Steve Goodman	(916) 521-6546
Branch Apparel	TBD	
Meeting Review	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Sunshine	TBD	
Lunch Reception	Ron Bacher	(916) 422-5583
Web Site	Ross Martin	(916) 427-0559
Book Club	Bernie Moreno	(209) 245-6313
RV	TBD	
NCGA Ambassador	Jim Huffman	(916) 468-8197
RAMP	Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530

**Honored Members****HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

PBS RON HUTCHESON  
PBS TOM PAGE  
PBS JIM PORTERFIELD  
PRD WARREN SENEGAL  
PBS LENNIE SILVA

**SENIOR CERTIFICATES**

SIR JIM PAGE  
SIR KEN TOWNS  
SIR VERNON FREEMAN  
SIR HEMAN SMITH  
SIR DON BALDWIN  
SIR LLOYD PLANK  
SIR CHARLES DANT

**TREASURER'S REPORT – November, 2021****Cash Balance 1/1/2021 = \$4,486**

	<b>JULY</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Beginning Cash Balance	\$5,318	N/A
Contributions	\$ 40	\$2,382
Expenses	\$ 98	\$1,608
Ending Cash Balance	\$5,260	N/A

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership, Gain/Loss	0/-9	129
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NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION: ALL ACTIVITIES arranged or sponsored by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of its members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement Inc, and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in matters pertaining in to said activities.

Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency. (Rule 420 & 421).

Members are obligated to attend all regular luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness or absence from the Branch locale. (Rule 60). REQUIRED ATTENDANCE – A member who misses three (3) consecutive luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date, and giving a valid reason, or did not attend one half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. may be notified, by letter, of the pending termination of his membership in SIR. (Rule 60, 100 & 107).

